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22 December 1958

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S/TR Contribution to OGI Periodic Requirements List (PRL) for the Far East Covering the Period 1 February 1959 to 31 May 1959.

REF : Periodic Requirements List (PRL) Far East, 1 Oct 1958 - 31 Jan 1959

COMMUNIST CHINA

E. Economic

1. Continuing current information is needed on international shipping to Communist China, particularly in connection with the tension in the Formosa Straits area. Any changes in pattern, such as a sharp increase or cessation of tanker movements should be watched for especially. Chinese Communist port closures should also be reported promptly. (S)

2. The following questions pertain to transportation developments and the logistic build-up in the Formosa Straits area:

a. Is any current information available concerning the capacity of the Yingtai-Amoy or Nanping-Foochow railroad lines in Fukien Province? (S)

b. How many trains move in each direction per day over each line? (S)

c. How many of these trains are freight, passenger, military, work, or mixed trains? (S)

d. How many cars are there in each freight train? (S)

e. How many loaded and empty cars are there in each freight train? (S)

f. How many carloads of each type of commodity are there in each train? (S)

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g. Describe any unusual transportation movements or new transportation construction occurring anywhere in Fukien Province or elsewhere along the South China coast for both land and water transportation. (S)

27. During 1958 severe transportation problems plagued the Chinese Communists. All forms of transport experienced congestion, and delays in the movement of goods were frequently reported. On several occasions the Chinese indicated that the transportation situation might have a serious effect on production.

a. What evidence is there that the Chinese transportation system failed to meet the requirements of the "leap forward" program? (C)

b. Is there any evidence that transportation failures caused other sectors of the economy to fall short of their goals? (C)

c. What measures are being taken to prevent congestion on the railroads, highways, and waterways? (C)

d. What evidence is there that the congestion observed in 1958 will continue into the first half of 1959? (C)

28. Omit

29. Beginning in January of 1958 much of the inland water transportation in Communist China was transferred to the control of Provincial Communications Departments. This transfer of control to the local level was extended to coastal shipping in March.

a. What reasons do the Chinese Communists give for these transfers? (S)

b. Will the transfers have an effect on transportation activities, or are they simply administrative or paper transfers for propaganda purposes? How will central control and plans be coordinated with local control? (S)

(New Question). Recent reports indicate considerable chartering activity on the part of the Chinese Communists in 1958.

a. To what extent do Chinese chartering activities in 1958 represent an increase over previous years? (S)

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b. How many vessels do the Chinese have under charter? From what countries? What are the terms of charter? (S)

c. To what extent are Soviet and Polish vessels being utilized by the Chinese? Are they on time charter or voyage charter? (S)

d. How are the chartered vessels being utilized? Which vessels are used exclusively in coastal trade? In foreign trade? In both coastal and foreign trade? (S)

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